

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 08 April 2005 (08.04.05);
original claims 1 and 6 amended ; original claim 5 deleted ;
remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

1. Method for removing at least one constituent from a solution, comprising:
 - forming a liquid mixture by bringing together said solution and a particulate seed material under conditions or in the presence of one or more substances which cause the constituent to be removed to crystallize out on the surface of the seed material; and
 - separating the seed material having the constituent to be removed crystallized out thereon from the liquid mixture by passing the liquid mixture through a filter, wherin the pore size of the filter is greater than the particle size of the seed material.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the particle size of the seed material is from 0.1 to 50 µm.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pore size of the filter is equal to or less than 150 µm.
- 15 4. Method according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the particle size of the seed material is from 5 to 25 µm.
6. Method according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein one or more substances cause the constituent to be removed to crystallize out on the surface of the seed material.
- 20 7. Method according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the seed material comprises an inorganic material selected from the group consisting of a mineral clay types, silica particles, silicates or diatomites.
8. Method according to any of claims 1-6, wherein the seed material comprises an organic material selected from the group consisting of cellulose, stearate and lactose.
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